

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figs. 1, 4C, and 6. This sheet, which includes Figs. 1-3, 4A-C, 5A-C, and 6, replaces the original sheet, including Figs. 1-3, 4A-C, 5A-C, and 6. In Fig. 1, reference numeral 34 has been deleted. In Fig. 4C reference numeral 68a has been changed to 68 and the reference numeral 68b has been changed to 69. In Figure 6, reference numerals 162b, 164a, 169a, 176a, 179a, 178a, 180a, 180b, 184a, 184b, 186a, 186b, 188a, 188b and 189a have been changed to 162, 164, 169, 176, 179, 178, 180, 180, 184, 186, 188, and 189.

Attachments: Replacement Sheet
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are pending in the present application. In the Office Action dated October 18, 2005, claims 1-6 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 1,996,813 to Jeppsson ("Jeppsson"). Claims 1-8, 18, 22, 23, and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 1,920,711 to Pelizzola ("Pelizzola").

Election Requirement

Applicants elect species II shown in Figures 5A-5C. Claims 1-6 are readable on species II.

Applicants' Embodiments and the Cited References

The embodiments disclosed in the present application will now be discussed in comparison to the cited references. Of course, the discussion of the disclosed embodiments, and the discussion of the differences between the disclosed embodiments and the cited references, do not define the scope or interpretation of any of the claims. Instead, such discussed differences merely help the Examiner appreciate important claim distinctions discussed thereafter.

Figures 5A-C shows a blade 160 having a first shear face 162 and a second shear face 164. The shear faces 162 and 164 are spaced from one another to define a thickness of the body 161. A first guide surface 180 extends between the first and second shear faces 162 and 164 along a first elongate edge of the body 161. A second guide surface 181 extends between the first and second shear faces along a second elongate edge of the body 161. The first and second guide surfaces 180 and 181 may be generally parallel to one another, as shown. A first shear edge 182 is defined at the junction between the first guide surface 180 and the first shear face 162. A second shear edge 184 is defined at the junction between the first guide surface 180 and the second shear face 164. A third shear edge 186 is defined at the junction between the second guide surface 181 and the first shear face 162. A fourth shear edge 188 is defined at the junction between the second guide surface 181 and the second shear face 164. The blade 160 has at least five mounting points by which the blade 160 can be mounted to the housing 30 of the hand-held tool 10. These mounting points are typified in the drawings as mounting holes which pass through the thickness of the body 161.

In the embodiment shown in Figures 5A-C, the blade 160 includes two central mounting holes. The first central mounting hole 166 is spaced the fixed mounting distance D

from the first outer mounting hole 168 and from the second outer mounting hole 169. A second central mounting hole 176 is spaced the same mounting distance D from the third outer mounting hole 178 and the fourth outer mounting hole 179. The first central mounting hole 166 and the first outer mounting hole 168 define a first pair of mounting holes 170a. The first central mounting hole 166 and the second outer mounting hole 169 define a second pair 170b of mounting holes. The second central mounting hole 176 and the third outer mounting hole 178 define a third pair 170c of mounting holes. The second central mounting hole 176 and the fourth outer mounting hole 179 define a fourth pair 170d of mounting holes.

Because the mounting holes of each pair 170 are spaced from one another the same mounting distance D, the blade 160 can be reoriented in four different operative orientations by passing mounting rods 42 and 44 (See Figure 6) through different pairs 170 of mounting holes in the blade 160. As a consequence, by simply flipping the blades 160a and 160b to different operative orientations with respect to the casing 32, each blade 160a-b can provide four different shear edges for cutting workpieces W to effectively quadruple the life of the blades.

The blade 83 of Jeppsson fails to disclose or fairly suggest the number of holes or mounting points used in the blade 160 of Applicants' embodiments or the positioning of the holes or mounting points relative to the shear edges of the blade 160. Similarly, Pelizzola the blades disclosed in Pelizzola also fail to disclose or fairly suggest the number of holes or mounting points used in the blade 160 of Applicants' embodiments or the positioning of the holes or mounting points relative to the shear edges of the blade 160.

Claims and Rejections

Turning now to the claims, the patentably distinct differences between the cited references and the claim language will be specifically pointed out. Amended claim 1 recites, in part, "at least six mounting holes passing through the body, the at least six mounting holes including a first set of three mounting holes being longitudinally spaced apart from each other and defining a first and second pair of mounting holes, the at least six mounting holes further including a second set of three mounting holes being longitudinally spaced from each other and defining a third and fourth pair of mounting holes." Jeppsson and Pelizzola fail to disclose or fairly suggest the above limitations.

Blade 83 disclosed in Jeppsson fails to disclose or fairly suggest at least six mounting holes and the positioning of the mounting holes relative to the shear edges as required by claim 1. The blades disclosed in Pelizzola also fail to disclose or fairly suggest the positioning of the six mounting holes required by claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over Jeppsson and Pelizzola. Claims depending from the claim 1 are also allowable due to depending from an allowable base claim and further in view of the additional limitations recited in the dependent claims.

Objections to the Drawings Under 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5)

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the reference numerals 34, 68a, 68b, 80a, 80b, 84a, 84b, 162b, 164a, 169a, 176a, 178a, 179a, 180a, 180b, 184b, 188a, and 189a are not mentioned in the written description.

Reference numeral 34 has been deleted from Figure 1. Figure 4C has been amended to change the reference numeral 68a to 68 and the reference numeral 68b to 69 both of which are referred to in the written description. Paragraph 27 has been amended so that the written description refers to reference numerals 80a and 80b. Paragraph 27 has been amended so that the written description refers to reference numerals 84a and 84b. Paragraph 28 has been amended so that the written description refers to reference numerals 69a-69b. Paragraph 41 has been amended to change the reference to first shear edge 182a to first shear edge 182. In Figure 6, reference numerals 162b, 164a, 169a, 176a, 179a, 178a, 180a, 180b, 184a, 184b, 186a, 186b, 188a, 188b and 189a have been changed to 162, 164, 169, 176, 179, 178, 180, 180, 184, 186, 188, and 189, which are referred to in the written description. Accordingly based on the amendments to the figures and the written description, the objection to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) should be withdrawn.

All of the claims remaining in the application are now clearly allowable.
Favorable consideration and a timely Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures:

Postcard
Fee Transmittal Sheet (+ copy)
6 Sheets of Replacement Drawings (Figures 1-6)
3 Sheets of Annotated Drawings Showing Changes

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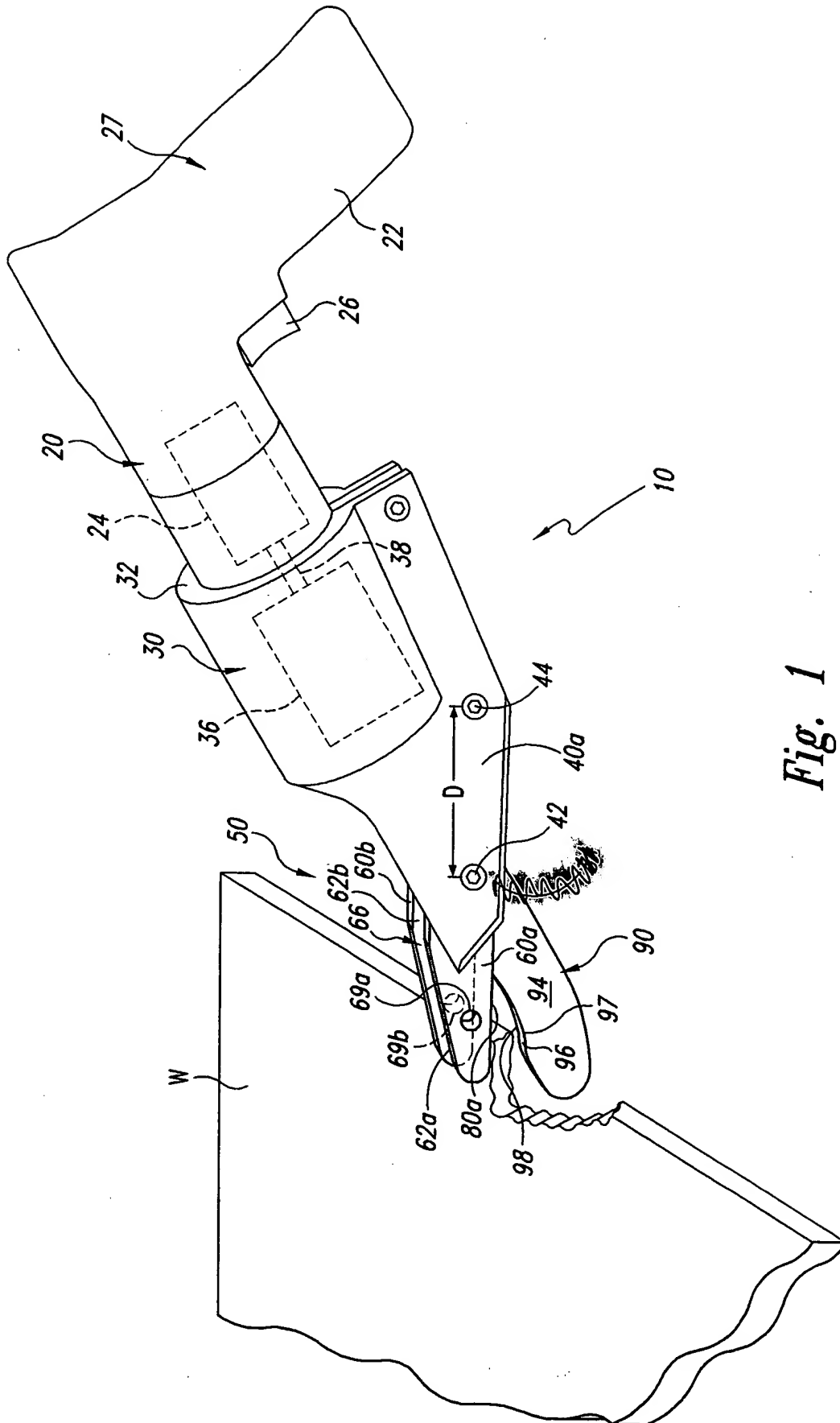


Fig. 1

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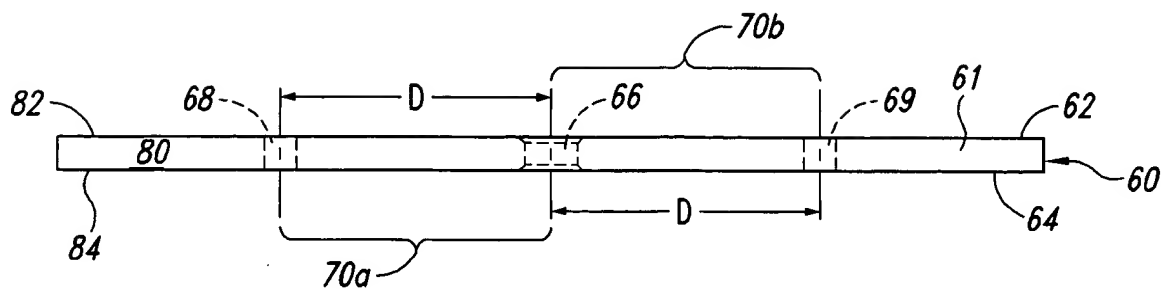


Fig. 4A

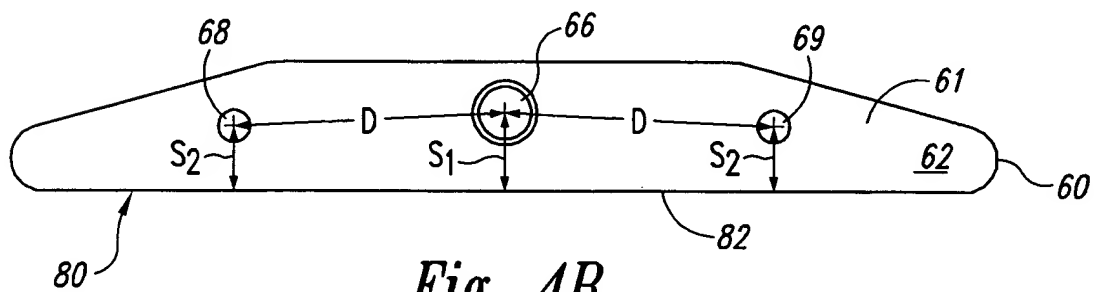


Fig. 4B

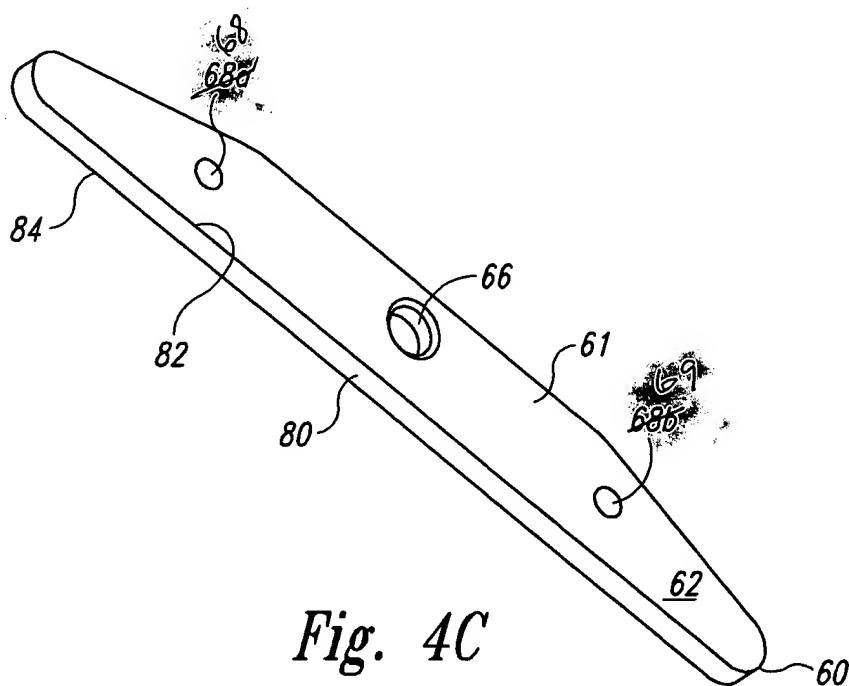


Fig. 4C



Fig. 6